

Hello, good morning and welcome. My name is Dan Evans, and as the Designated Federal Official for NASA's Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Independent Study Team, I'd like to call this meeting to order and introduce the panelists.

In the back row:

Nadia Drake
Paula Bontempi
Federica Bianco
David Grinspoon
Karlin Toner
Josh Semeter
Jennifer Buss

In the front row:

Walter Scott
Warren Randolph
Reggie Brothers
Shelley Wright
Scott Kelly
Anamaria Berea
Mike Gold
David Spergel, who serves as the chair of the team

I have a few opening remarks, but to begin, I'd like to start with the following. First, I'd like to pay tribute to the life of Retired Air Force Master Sergeant Sam Sato, who is being laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery today. Following his active duty service, Sam served as the Intelligence Collection Manager for the National Intelligence Manager for Aviation, where he played a critical role in UAP analysis. All of us at NASA offer our condolences to Sam's family, friends, and colleagues.

Second, I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude to our distinguished panel of experts for their unwavering commitment and dedication. It is disheartening to note that several of them have been subjected to online abuse due to their decision to participate on this panel. And NASA's security team is actively addressing this issue.

We at NASA are acutely aware of the considerable public interest in UAP. However, it is critical to understand that any form of harassment towards our panelists only

serves to detract from the scientific process, which requires an environment of respect and openness.

Every member of our team is a recognized authority in their respective field, and they have our unequivocal support. NASA stands in solidarity with them, advocating for a respectful discourse that befits their expertise and the significance of their work.

Thanks.

In recent years, the subject of unidentified aerial phenomena – nowadays termed unidentified anomalous phenomena - or UAPs, has captured the attention of the public, the scientific community, and the government alike. It is now our collective responsibility to investigate these occurrences with the rigorous scientific scrutiny that they deserve.

NASA Administrator Sen. Bill Nelson believes that understanding UAPs is vital for several reasons, which is why he directed this study. First and foremost, it provides an opportunity for us to expand our understanding of the world around us. As an organization dedicated to exploring the unknown, this work is in our DNA.

Secondly, this study aims to enhance situational awareness. The presence of UAPs raises concerns about the safety of our skies, and it is this nation's obligation to determine whether these phenomena pose any potential risks to airspace safety. By understanding the nature of UAPs, we can ensure that our skies remain a safe space for all.

In order to achieve these goals, it is crucial that we employ a scientific lens for our UAP work. It's precisely this rigorous, evidence-based approach allows one to separate fact from fiction. This team is comprised of experts from various disciplines, which allows them approach this work from multiple perspectives, and we have greatly benefited from that collective expertise.

Now, why do we value a scientific approach? It's because science is built on evidence. It thrives on scrutiny. It demands repeatability, reproducibility, and above all, objectivity. When we approach UAPs from a scientific perspective, we do not come in with an agenda. We come in needing a roadmap. Indeed, the primary objective of this incredible team of experts is not to go back and look at grainy footage of UAPs, but rather to give us a roadmap to guide us for future analyses. This is the very essence of the scientific method.

Scientific research is intended to be publicly available and transparent. NASA prides itself on making its data and images available to the public to learn and explore on their own. By holding public meetings like this one, we aim for open and honest dialog with the public. We recognize that public interest in UAPs is high, and that the demand for answers is strong. Conversations like this one are the first step to reducing the stigma surrounding UAP reporting.

Moreover, transparency is essential for fostering trust between NASA, the public, and the scientific community. In order to do things right, we must work together, pooling our resources, our knowledge, and our expertise. And by maintaining open channels of communication, we can facilitate collaboration, encourage the exchange of ideas, and ensure that our work is as robust as possible.

Not only that, but our commitment to openness is itself a reflection of NASA's commitment to scientific integrity. As an organization dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, it is NASA's responsibility to be honest and forthright and to follow the science. By being transparent in our work, we uphold our dedication to scientific excellence.

The meeting today represents the first deliberative actions that the team has taken, and so it's important to keep in mind that they still have several months of work ahead of them. Their final report will be released this summer, and we will publish it on our website.

NASA believes that the study of unidentified anomalous phenomena represents an exciting step forward in our quest to uncover the mysteries of the world around us. By embracing a scientific lens, we ensure that our work is rigorous and reliable, and by valuing transparency and openness, we can foster trust and collaboration with the public. Simply put, this is why we do what we do.

Before I introduce Nicky, there are a few administrative matters to attend to:

- The Unidentified Anomalous Phenomena Independent Study Team has been established in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Its parent committee is the Earth Science Advisory Committee. As such, this group does not report to the government, it reports to the Earth Science Advisory Committee, who will debate the recommendations and formally transmit the report to the government.

- Our deliberative committee meetings such as this one are open to the public.
- After this panel was convened, the National Defense Authorization Act (the NDAA) changed the “a” in UAP to anomalous. Accordingly, this panel’s remit was expanded to encompass not-just aerial UAP. However, the majority of UAP sightings to date have been in the aerial domain, so it is fair to say that the panel's focus is on the aerial aspect of anomalous.
- In compliance with the FACA Federal statute, formal minutes are being taken throughout the meeting today. These minutes are for the public record, hence, all presentations, discussions and comments by committee members should be considered to be “on the record.”
- Each member of this UAP Independent Study Team has been appointed because of their specific subject matter expertise as individuals, and hence each member is subject to the Federal Ethics laws. The category of appointment is called “Special Government Employee” (SGEs) for non-government members, and our two federal employees serve as “Regular Government Employees” (RGEs).
- To the Panel, all members on this committee should remember to recuse themselves if a topic comes up in which you have a potential conflict of interest between your financial interests (including those of your employer) and matters we are discussing.
- And Panel, if you have any questions related to Ethics issues, please see me separately, and if needed, I will put you in contact with a NASA Ethics attorney.

Thanks for bearing with me. I’d now like to turn to the amazing Dr. Nicky Fox, Associate Administrator for NASA’s Science Mission Directorate.